



Kentucky Department of Corrections Staff and Offender Newsletter

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The Importance of Offender Reentry

Offender reentry is all the activities and programming conducted to prepare offenders to return safely to their community and to live as law-abiding citizens without reoffending and returning back to prison.

Based on an article by Corrections Corporation of America, Recidivism is the problem and that well over a million people are currently in the U.S. corrections system, and almost all of them will eventually reenter our communities.

- About 1.6 million people are incarcerated in federal and state prisons.
- More than half of state prisoners are serving time for nonviolent crimes, and one of every nine, or about 159,000 people, are serving life sentences -nearly a third of them without the possibility of parole.
- 95 percent of inmates in state prisons will at some point be released back into the community.
- Three out of every four released inmates will be arrested again after release, and over half of all inmates will return to prison soon after release.
- Studies show 67.8% of released inmates are rearrested for a new crime within 3 years and 76.6% are rearrested within 5 years. Within three years of release, 49.7% of released inmates end up back in prison and 55.1% end up back in prison within 5 years

Can Recidivism be reduced through Reentry?

That answer is yes. Research has shown that a vast amount of offenders incarcerated have issues with addiction to drugs/alcohol, or are unable to find employment due to very little education or the lack of job skills.

It is found that offenders that participate in academic education programs, vocational training programs, faith-based programs, and/or receive their GED while incarcerated are more likely to gain employment post-release. In having a job after release, it is found that they are less likely to return to prison.

Benefits of Reducing Recidivism

- Long term offender education is cost effective and in the long run saves taxpayers money
- Communities are safer
- Growth of state/federal prison populations and their costs reduce
- Families are together and share in family responsibilities
- Family life, friends and relationships have the ability to flourish

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To read the full article, with the facts and statistics, please go to: <http://www.cca.com/Media/Default/documents/Social-Responsibility/Providing-Proven-Re-Entry-Programs/Reentry-Commitment-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

